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U.S. Betrayed Cuban Patriots

Following the recent release of the Cubans who fought at the Bay of Pigs, the real feelings of these men toward the United States has been revealed.

Many of these veterans say they feel no hatred. But Manuel Penabaz, one of those lucky enough to escape after the fiasco says: "We did not fail. We were betrayed."

Yes, the U.S.A. betrayed 1,500 men who offered their lives in hope of freeing their country from the Communist rule of Fidel Castro.

In an article in "U.S. News & World Report" Penabaz tells what happened even though he has relatives in Cuba because he doesn't want the same mistake to be made by any government.

"The Central Intelligence Agency of the U.S. Government, headed by Allen Dulles, was the recruiting and training group for our volunteers," relates Penabaz.

They were trained at Guatemala by American officers and were told they would have air cover over them and in back of them the Navy and land forces.

In the middle of the invasion the Cubans heard a speech by Kennedy in which he said the U.S. would maintain strict neutrality in Cuba's internal affairs. The men couldn't believe it because Kennedy promised during his election campaign that he would give full support to Cubans opposing Castro.

Penabaz learned after he returned to Miami that no preparations were made for cooperation with the underground in Cuba and that no civilian uprising and sabotage had been planned by the U.S.

According to Penabaz, "Both the U.S. military chiefs and the CIA blandly assumed that there was enough opposition to Fidel Castro inside Cuban to overthrow his regime, once the movement had been sparked by our invasion."

"The U.S. decision to cancel the promised help to our invading forces included also a refusal to rescue our men and prevent their capture. Not even those in lifeboats or struggling in the water could be rescued. American naval personnel at Guantanamo heard our pleas for help, but, on orders from Washington, they could not move a vessel to assist."

We wonder as does Penabaz — "Why were we denied the help that would have uprooted the seedbed of Communist power in the Western Hemisphere."

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